



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD 676 – *An Act To Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B*
May 3, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resource Committee, my name is Neal Goldberg, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 676 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

For decades the Androscoggin River was mistreated, but efforts to revitalize the river have reversed much of the early damage. Now parts of the Androscoggin are ready for recreation uses that the previous generation probably thought would never again be feasible.

LD 676 gives the Androscoggin River an upgraded Class B status which brings with it certain environmental protections, regulations, and standards, which is supported by municipal officials whose boundaries border the river. According to our members, there is strong evidence to prove the part of the Androscoggin River that is being considered for an upgrade routinely meets the Class B standards.

Furthermore, in consultation with officials who manage discharge into the Androscoggin River and regulate its use, this bill would not change the methods in which the river is managed.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important environmental matter.